

# AMERICAN OBSERVER

News and Issues—With Pros and Cons

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A NIGHT VIEW OF SAO PAULO, Brazil's thriving manufacturing city. Its population was 600,000 in 1920; today it exceeds 2,200,000.

## 21 Nations to Observe Pan American Day

Importance of Western Hemisphere Cooperation Will Be Stressed

*In observance of Pan American Day, April 14, this issue of the AMERICAN OBSERVER and its companion publication, the WEEKLY NEWS REVIEW, is largely devoted to Latin America. For this reason many regular features have been omitted. The next issue (April 18) will contain the customary material.*

PAN AMERICAN Day, observed each year on April 14, is set aside by the 20 Latin American republics and the United States to foster a spirit of friendship and cooperation in this hemisphere. The 21 nations are members of the Pan American Union and the Organization of American States, both of which work to encourage trade and cultural exchange among the countries. Through the Rio Pact, the 21 are pledged to come to one another's help in case any nation is attacked.

**Extent.** Latin America stretches southward from the southern border of the United States, across Mexico, through Central America, and on to Cape Horn at the tip of South America. This vast area—it is more than two times the size of the continental United States—is known as Latin America because most of its countries were colonies of Spain and Portugal—two of Europe's "Latin" countries.

Three of the Latin American nations—Cuba, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic—occupy islands in the West Indies. Ten—Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela—are on the South American continent. Six—Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama—are in Central America. Mexico, of course, is on the North American continent.

(Lands that are still controlled by European nations generally are not included in the term *Latin America*. These are: British Honduras; British, French, and Dutch Guiana; and numerous islands in the West Indies.)

**Geography.** Latin America is an area of contrasts. It has vast plains and high mountains, some of the highest in the world; it includes dense jungles and arid deserts; its climate varies from the heat of the tropics to the cold temperatures of the far south.

The mountains along the western coasts of Latin America are one of the area's outstanding physical characteristics. These ranges—the Sierra Madre in Mexico and the Andes in South America—are a continuation of the mountain ranges in the western part of the United States.

The Latin American mountains,

especially the Andes, have had a profound effect upon life in that area. In the tropics where the lowlands are hot and rainfall is heavy, most people live in the highlands.

Throughout much of South America, the Andes chain has prevented the development of railroads and highways to link the eastern and western coasts of the continent. Before the airplane came into common use, trade between east and west had to be carried on by sea. Even now, heavy materials must be shipped from one side of the continent to the other by boats that go through the Panama Canal or around Cape Horn.

In several of the South American republics—Chile, Peru, and others—mountains cover almost the entire country and sharply limit the territory available for agriculture.

(Concluded on page 2)



## Southern Lands

(Concluded from page 1)

Three great river systems make up another of South America's outstanding physical characteristics. The Amazon with its many tributaries drains an area of more than 2.6 million square miles. The river is navigable for 2,300 miles and permits ocean-going vessels to go across the whole of Brazil to the city of Iquitos, in Peru.

In fact, ships sometimes make a journey of nearly 6,000 miles between two Peruvian cities that are only three hours apart by air. They go from the Pacific coast port of Callao, around the continent, and up the Amazon to Iquitos. Direct land travel between these cities would require a difficult crossing of the Andes.

The Orinoco and the Plata-Parana systems, though dwarfed by the Amazon, are still important rivers. The Orinoco, about 1,700 miles in length, flows through Venezuela and Colombia and provides a "highway" that is navigable for 700 miles inland.

The Parana and La Plata rivers together drain an area of more than a million square miles in southern Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, and Bolivia. This system, too, is open for long distances to ocean-going ships.

The plains of Argentina—known as the pampas—are another of South America's distinctive geographical characteristics. This area is fertile

## QUICK FACTS ABOUT LATIN AMERICA

Country	Population	Area in square miles	Principal exports
ARGENTINA	18,379,000	1,079,965	grains, meat, wool
BOLIVIA	3,089,000	416,940	tin, tungsten, silver
BRAZIL	55,772,000	3,291,416	coffee, cotton, cacao
CHILE	5,930,809	286,323	copper, nitrate, wool
COLOMBIA	12,033,000	439,714	coffee, petroleum, bananas
COSTA RICA	898,000	19,650	coffee, bananas, abaca
CUBA	5,814,112	44,217	sugar, molasses, tobacco
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	2,290,800	19,327	sugar, coffee, cacao
ECUADOR	3,350,000	104,510	bananas, coffee, cacao
EL SALVADOR	2,088,000	8,250	coffee, cotton, gold
GUATEMALA	3,092,000	42,000	coffee, bananas, chicle
HAITI	3,315,000	10,748	coffee, sisal, sugar
HONDURAS	1,557,000	43,200	bananas, coffee, silver
MEXICO	28,053,000	758,061	coffee, cotton, lead
NICARAGUA	1,166,000	57,145	coffee, gold, cotton
PANAMA	874,000	28,575	bananas, cacao, abaca
PARAGUAY	1,464,000	154,165	cotton, quebracho, timber
PERU	9,035,000	482,133	cotton, sugar, petroleum
URUGUAY	2,525,000	72,172	wool, meat, hides
VENEZUELA	5,608,534	352,143	petroleum, iron ore, coffee

IN COMPARING the areas of Latin American countries, these figures may help: Our 48 states have an area of 3,022,387 square miles; New York State has 49,576 square miles, and Colorado has 104,247 square miles.

and supports extensive farming and grazing operations.

The other Latin American republics—those that are not located in South America—have similar physical features. The 6 nations in Central America are largely mountainous, with coastal lowlands that have a tropical climate. Much of Mexico is a plateau rimmed by mountains along the country's Atlantic and Pacific coasts. The three island republics are partially covered by mountains, but they have relatively large farming areas.

**Land and resources.** Fertile soil is one of Latin America's chief resources. Perhaps the richest agricultural area is that which lies within a 300-mile radius around Buenos Aires, Argentina. Wheat and corn grow abundantly (sometimes there are two crops of wheat a season) and the heavy grass of the pampas provides excellent grazing.

Two regions in Brazil—the southern part of the country and the uplands along the Atlantic coast—are especially fertile. Even the high valleys nestled among the mountains in such countries as Bolivia, Peru, Chile, and Colombia have rich soils that are capable of producing good crops.

Mexico's farming land is in the central plateau, though some of the area must be irrigated. Plateaus and valleys that lie high in the mountains provide the principal agricultural areas in the Central American republics, while the coastal plains of the island republics are their chief farming regions.

Because of the great differences in climate and soil, Latin America's agricultural products are extremely varied. Corn, wheat, coffee, beans, tobacco, cotton, and fruit are Mexico's leading crops. The Central American republics are sometimes called the "banana republics" because they lead in producing this fruit.

Argentina is noted for its wheat, corn, and cattle; Brazil for its coffee, cotton, rice, and cattle. The nations along South America's Pacific coast raise wheat, tobacco, cotton, and sugar in large quantities. Chicle, for chewing gum, and the cacao bean, for cocoa and chocolate, are important products in a number of the Latin American countries.

Forests are another of Latin America's natural resources. Almost 40 per cent of the total land area in the 20 republics is covered with forests, but much

of the timber is too far from transportation to be used. As a result, the area supplies only one twentieth of the world's supply of lumber. Other products of the forests are rubber, quebracho for tanning leather, palm oils, and fibers for rope.

Minerals make up another of Latin America's resources. Gold, silver, copper, tin, iron ore, manganese, and petroleum lead the list. Again, though, transportation problems prevent the development of many of these resources. It costs five times as much, for instance, to get tin from Bolivian mines to ports on the Pacific as it does to ship the tin from Bolivia to Europe.

In Venezuela, two towns that are but 6 miles from each other by air are connected by a railway 23 miles long. The tracks make a 3,000-foot climb, use 15 bridges, and go through 8 tunnels.

**People.** The contrasts among the people of Latin America are as great as are the contrasts of geography and climate. Not only are there many different racial types, but the standards of living among the people vary tremendously.

The gulf that lies between the upper and lower classes in the lands south of the Rio Grande is at the root of most of their problems. The economic differences in Latin America, the various types of people living there, and the efforts that are being made to overcome the big problems of this region are discussed on the following pages.

### Pronunciations

Adolfo Ruiz Cortines—ä-daw'fö rwës core-të'nës

Anastasio Somoza—ä-näs-tä'syö sö-mö-sä

Carlos Castillo Armas—kär'lös kä-stel'yö är'mäs

Carlos Ibañez del Campo—kär'lös ä-bä'nyäs del kām'pö

Francisco Pizarro—frän-sës'kö pi-zär'ö

Fulgencio Batista—fööl-hën'see-ö bäs-tës'tä

Hernando Cortez—her-nän'dö core'tëz

Hidalgo—ä-däl'gö

Jai alai—hi ä-lä'

João Café Filho—zhwöw käfä' fë'lyö

José de San Martín—hö-zä' däsän mär-tën'

José Figueres—hö-zä' fë-gwä'rës

José Ramón Guizado—hö-zä' rä-mön' gë-zä'dö

José Remón—hö-zä' rä-mön'

Pérez Jiménez—për'éz hë-mean'éz

(Geographic names mentioned in this issue are pronounced in any good dictionary.)



LATIN AMERICA reaches southward from our frontier with Mexico for more than 7,000 miles to the tip of Argentina and Chile



# Living Standards Advancing

**F**OUR main groups of people live in Latin America. There are the *mestizos*, people of mixed ancestry. They make up a large part of the region's people. The native Indians form the second largest group.

The Negroes, whose ancestors were brought from Africa as slaves, are located mainly in Brazil and the countries around the Caribbean Sea. The remaining major group is composed of the descendants of the early Spanish and Portuguese settlers. There are also quite sizable groups of other Europeans and Asians in scattered areas.

One may find great extremes in living conditions in Latin America. In the mountains are Indian villages where life has hardly changed for hundreds of years. On the other hand, in such a modern city as Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, are fine hotels, luxurious apartment buildings, and the largest sports stadium in the world, with seats for 150,000 spectators.

Of the two extreme economic groups in Latin America, the very poor far outnumber the rich. While U. S. citizens have an average yearly income in excess of \$1,600 per person, yearly income per capita for Latin Americans as a whole is below \$300. Incomes range from \$518 in Venezuela to less than \$150 in more than half a dozen nations.

Most of the Indians and many of the *mestizos* live as generations of their ancestors have done. Their homes are thatched or adobe huts, and they eat corn and beans which they raise on small plots of land. Some work in the mines or on big estates for low wages. As industrialization progresses, increasing numbers are working in the factories.

The small group of prosperous Latin Americans live in much the same way as well-to-do people in the United States. Their homes are modern; they wear fashionable clothing; they are well educated. Many of them have Spanish blood, for the Spaniards settled most of Latin America and

leading to greater political stability.

Latin America's lagging living standards are apparent in many ways. For example, the United States uses about 48 million telephones—more than one for every four persons. Latin America averages no more than one telephone for every 60 people. We have close to 10 times as many radio sets as Latin Americans have.

In the United States we have more than enough passenger automobiles to furnish one for every four of our people. Argentina averages one for every 54 people; Chile averages one for every 140 persons; and Ecuador, one for every 825.

Our neighbors to the south have serious deficiencies in health and education. Malaria and tuberculosis are widespread. Only last month a survey taken in Central America revealed that the death toll among small children from poor nutrition is "appalling." Throughout the area are serious shortages in doctors and nurses. In some countries the majority of adults cannot read or write.



AN INDIAN LAD in Mexico

(Only 2½ per cent of U. S. adult citizens are illiterate.)

The Latin American lands are aware of their shortcomings, and are taking steps to raise living standards. Striking progress is being made in certain areas.

For example, a network of hospitals, clinics, and health centers has been set up in recent years in the Amazon Valley of Brazil. In certain key areas the rate of malaria has been reduced from 30 per cent to less than 3 per cent. Life expectancy in these regions has been increased by 11 years over what it was in 1942. Even so, it is only 48 as compared to 68 in the United States.

Paraguay offers an example of good progress in education. A few years ago, industrial development was hampered by an almost total lack of trained workers. Then the United States helped Paraguay start a program of vocational education. Today the Paraguayans are running the school themselves, and a steady flow of trained workers is going into industry.

New efforts are being made in Latin America to combat illiteracy. In Mexico the percentage of illiterates has been reduced by two thirds in the past 25 years. Many new schools have been built, and a program of adult education is being pushed. In many of these new schools in Mexico and in other parts of Latin America, students are taught not only to read and write but are instructed in health habits, sanitation, vocations, and housekeeping.



IN PERU—a secretary

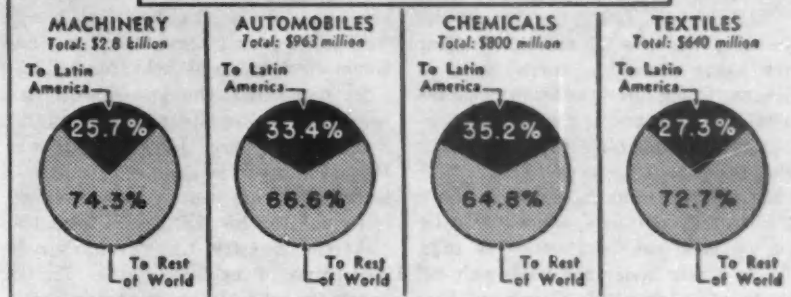
they and their descendants have always played a big role in business, agriculture, and government.

Spanish is the language generally spoken in Latin America. The two major regions outside the Spanish-speaking area are Brazil, where Portuguese is the main language, and Haiti, where French is spoken.

Most lands of Latin America lack a sizable middle class. Such a class is appearing, though, in lands like Brazil and Mexico. As the region takes steps to develop its agriculture and industries, a middle class will grow further,

## WHAT WE SEND LATIN AMERICA

As a per cent of our total exports



FIGURES on both charts on this page are for 1953

## Farms, Factories, and Mines

**M**ANUFACTURING is on the upswing in Latin America, but farming is still the basis of the region's well-being.

About 60 per cent of Latin Americans make a living from farm work. Three fourths of the region's income is derived from the sale of such farm products as wheat, coffee, sugar, rubber, cocoa beans, bananas, and beef.

Yet Latin America's agricultural output is nowhere near what it should be. Only five per cent of the land is cultivated. Nine tenths of the cultivated area is in Brazil and Argentina. Swamps, mountains, jungles, and deserts make many parts of the region unfit for agriculture. Nevertheless, it is believed that farming could be carried out profitably on 25 per cent of Latin American soil if land clearing and irrigation were undertaken.

Farm output is disappointing even in areas now cultivated. Primitive farm methods, lack of modern machinery, and scarcity of fertilizers keep crop yields low. Further complicating the agricultural setup is unequal land distribution. A few families in most countries have huge land holdings. Their estates are tilled by tenant farmers who have little or no chance to acquire land of their own.

Most Latin American nations are now tackling these problems. Farm experimental stations are being set up in South American lands, and modern methods of cultivation are being advanced. Land reforms have been undertaken in certain countries—for example, Costa Rica. Farm machinery is being used increasingly.

Along with farm progress, industrial advances are necessary if living standards are to rise as they should. The region's mineral wealth, it is felt, points the way to industrial growth. Mexico leads the world in the production of silver. Bolivia ranks high in tin output, and Chile is a world leader in copper production. Venezuela is second to the United

States in producing oil, and last month new oil supplies were discovered in Brazil's Amazon basin. Brazil also has big stores of iron ore.

Industrial production increased by 66 per cent in Latin America during the past eight years. Industries include the refining of metals for export, assembly of automobiles, and the manufacture of cloth, shoes, soap, furniture, and other products used by people in their daily lives. The output of electric power has more than doubled since 1945, and home and factory construction has gone up by 50 per cent.

Obstacles to industrial growth include lack of coal and poor transportation facilities. There is also a desperate need for funds to finance new industries.

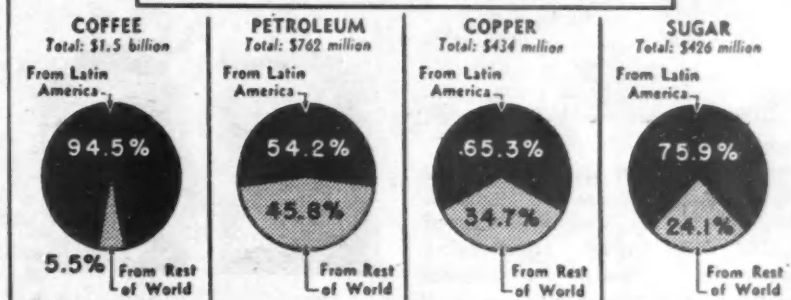
While U. S. investments are sizable in the area, many people in our country with money to invest are reluctant to do so in Latin America. They fear that a revolution might take place, and they would then perhaps lose their money. More stable governments are badly needed.

Latin American countries have long been plagued by too much reliance on one product or crop. Bolivia stakes its economic hopes almost solely on tin. Cuba depends largely on sugar, and Colombia's prosperity is dependent on coffee. The welfare of the Central American lands depends on bananas and coffee to a large degree. Most of these items are sold mainly to the United States.

When demand in the United States and elsewhere is high, the producing nations prosper. But if demand drops and prices fall, these nations suffer badly, for they have little else to turn to. A solution of the problem is to cultivate new crops and start new industries, thereby reducing dependence on a single product. Most countries are today aiming at this goal, and lands like Brazil and Mexico are making substantial headway.

## WHAT LATIN AMERICA SENDS US

As a per cent of our total imports





# Leaders and Governments

LATIN America has had a stormy history, and the 20 nations in that area today present a varied political picture. Some are under firm dictatorial rule; others are making progress along democratic lines; and still others are in a state of unrest.

Mexico—the only Latin nation whose land adjoins our own—appears to be making good progress along the road of democracy under the leadership of President Adolfo Ruiz Cortines. But the small nations that are clustered in Central America, just beyond Mexico, have lately been rocked by one political crisis after another.

One of the outstanding recent events in that area was Guatemala's revolution, which occurred last summer. This upheaval was viewed favorably by the United States and many other Western Hemisphere countries, however, because it resulted in the overthrow of a pro-communist government.

Carlos Castillo Armas, the present chief executive of Guatemala, is working hard to improve the conditions under which his people live. He is re-

ceiving help and support from the United States, but there is quite a lot of controversy as to whether we are helping him enough.

economic and financial difficulties. Meanwhile, the country prepares for a national election, to be held this fall.

In Argentina, the government has been under President Juan Peron's firm control since the middle 1940's. Peron claims to be promoting the best interests of his people, but is widely criticized for his dictatorial methods.

Across the lofty Andes from Peron's Argentina, President Carlos Ibañez del Campo of Chile faces big economic problems. There are many causes of unrest in Chile, including skyrocketing prices of the items which people need to buy. Since Ibañez lacks strong support in the Chilean legislature, he has a hard time dealing with the nation's economic troubles.

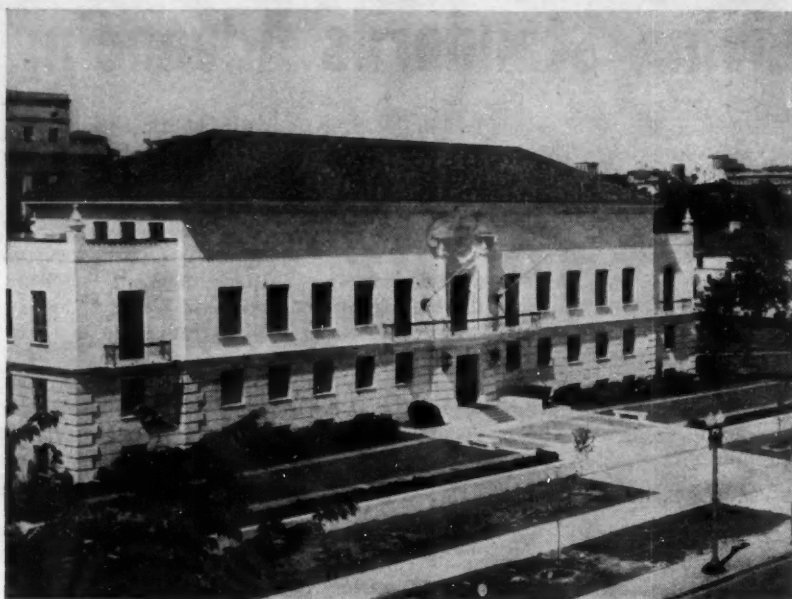
Venezuela, whose oil fields and iron mines have made possible a tremendous business boom, is under the control of strong-willed President Pérez Jiménez. Though admitting that his regime is dictatorial, Pérez Jiménez declares: "I make every effort to give Venezuelans the kind of government best adapted to them." The chief executive's opponents, however, feel that the country could do better under a more democratic form of government.

As is shown by several of the foregoing examples, democracy has had a difficult time taking root in Latin America. There are various reasons for this—some of them going all the way back to colonial days. Most Latin American lands were under extremely oppressive rule during their colonial periods, and their people had little chance to learn democracy.

In addition, the majority of people in many of these lands are uneducated, and they have not had the ability to set up free governments. Progress is being made, but much still remains to be done along this line.

Yet, despite all the difficulties, it appears that free government is making gains in Latin America. Violent revolutions occur less frequently than they once did, and the practice of holding regular elections is becoming more widespread.

Communists are active in parts of Latin America, but they don't control any of the present governments. If our neighbors south of the Rio Grande succeed in their current efforts to boost general living and educational standards, the Reds' false promises will have less and less appeal.



PAU PHOTO BY FRANCES ADELHARDT

PAN AMERICAN UNION administration building in our nation's capital. It is headquarters for OAS, the Organization of American States. OAS was organized in 1948 to further cooperation among the 21 Pan American republics.

## Cooperation in Hemisphere

THERE have been numerous squabbles and occasional wars among the Western Hemisphere countries, and these usually receive a great deal of publicity. Not so well known, perhaps, are the solid gains which the American nations have achieved by working together on various problems.

During World War II, for instance, the United States and its southern neighbors cooperated on military matters through an Inter-American Defense Board. U. S. air and naval bases, established on the soil of certain Latin American countries during that conflict, played a major role in the battle against Hitler's submarines.

The Inter-American Defense Board, composed of high-ranking military officers from all the American republics, still exists. Its present job is to help work out mutual plans on the defense of this hemisphere. A pact signed at Rio de Janeiro, in 1947, pledges the Western Hemisphere republics to joint action in promoting peace and resisting aggression.

The Latin American nations are far less powerful, in a military sense, than is the United States. Our government, however, is helping a number of these countries to strengthen and modernize their armed forces, so that they can carry a greater share of the hemisphere defense load.

For instance, we are assisting about half of the Latin republics in the purchase of military equipment. Also, hundreds of servicemen from these lands have studied at the U. S. armed forces' technical training schools, in this country and overseas.

Our assistance to the Latin American nations is by no means limited to military equipment and training. We also help them develop better schools, raise their people's health standards, obtain better crops, and promote the growth of profitable industries. In nearly every Latin American country there are U. S. experts and technicians at work, along with local people, to bring about improvements in such lines. Here are some examples of what has been done:

Improved varieties of seed corn, introduced into Peru, have boosted the corn yield per acre by as much as 300 per cent in certain parts of that country. Nations south of the Rio Grande have received help in setting up

schools and clinics. Large numbers of Latin Americans have been trained as teachers and as health workers.

From time to time, the United States government has given sizable loans to Latin American nations for the purchase of farm machinery, road-building equipment, and other needed supplies. The people of these countries have received training from U. S. technicians on how to take care of tractors, handle welding equipment, and so on.

Private U. S. industry, along with our government, is playing a big role in Latin American development. Businessmen in this country hold more than 6 billion dollars' worth of investments in Latin American enterprises. This amounts to approximately 40 per cent of all our private investments abroad. Oil fields, mines, and manufacturing plants are among the types of Latin American concerns in which private U. S. investors have an important stake.

Our nation is the biggest customer for goods which the Latin Americans sell. These consist mainly of raw materials—including coffee, petroleum, copper, and sugar. In return, we sell our southern neighbors large shipments of machinery, automobiles, chemicals, and textiles.

If Latin America succeeds in her present efforts to build a more prosperous economy, she will be able to buy increased quantities of goods from the United States—as well as from Europe and other areas. Some authorities predict that the countries south of the Rio Grande will be purchasing at least twice as much from us in 1975 as they do now.

In general, governments of all the American republics are eager to promote continued development and improvement of friendly relations within the Western Hemisphere. An official body which has been established to serve this purpose is the Organization of American States (OAS)—whose charter was adopted at Bogotá, Colombia, in 1948. Its job is to promote peace and cooperation among the Western Hemisphere republics. A forerunner of this organization was the Pan American Union. Created 65 years ago, it now serves as the secretariat—or central agency—of the OAS.



Batista  
Cuba



Ibañez  
Chile



Ruiz Cortines  
Mexico



Peron  
Argentina



Café  
Brazil



Castillo Armas  
Guatemala



# Historical Background

**L**ATIN America supported several great Indian civilizations in the days before European explorers first went there. Traces of these cultures—ancient temples and remnants of highways—still exist, and they are studied year after year by scholars seeking to learn as much as possible about ways of life in the long-distant past.

The empire of the Inca Indians was one of the greatest of ancient times. The Inca empire was centered in Peru, and at one time it controlled a large section of South America. Its rulers are believed to have been quite cruel and oppressive.

Parts of a 2,000-mile road system that helped bind together the empire are still visible. At least some parts of this network, according to explorers, were built by other Indian tribes whom the Inca warriors later conquered.

The Incas built excellent irrigation systems for watering their farms. They built granaries for storing food. When crops failed in part of the empire, food was distributed from the granaries to the stricken region. The Incas made beautifully patterned textiles from cotton and wool, and their descendants still do so today.

## The Mayas and Toltecs

In Central America and southern Mexico were the Mayas, builders of massive structures whose ruins are today regarded with awe. The Toltecs had a highly organized society in Mexico between 700 and 1100 A.D.

After the Toltec civilization crumbled, it was followed by the Aztec, which was still in existence when Europeans came to America. Not long after the arrival of Columbus, in 1492, explorers and adventurers conquered the Indians and seized large sections

western and central parts of South America; José de San Martín, who crossed the Andes from Argentina and attacked the Spaniards on South America's west coast; Bernardo O'Higgins, the "George Washington of Chile"; and the Mexican priest Hidalgo.

Most of the Latin American countries won their freedom from European powers in the early 1800's. Cuba, however, remained a Spanish territory until 1898, and then was governed by the United States until 1902.

## Monroe Doctrine

It was in 1822 that the United States began recognizing her new southern neighbors as independent countries. In the following year, 1823, U. S. President James Monroe and Secretary of State John Quincy Adams set forth the famous Monroe Doctrine. Through it, they warned all the governments of Europe against seeking to get control over any of the new western nations. The American continents, said the United States, were "not to be considered as subjects for future colonization by any European powers."

The Monroe Doctrine did not get much attention during the period immediately following its announcement, but it acquired great importance later. Our government took a firm stand in 1865, for instance, when France was trying to set up a Mexican empire.

In the early 1900's, as the United States became increasingly powerful, a new idea was added to the Monroe Doctrine. President Theodore Roosevelt noted that turmoil in Latin American states often tempted European countries to violate the Doctrine and meddle in Western Hemisphere affairs. To lessen the danger of European intervention, he concluded, *the United States itself* might need to keep order—temporarily—in American nations whose governments had broken down.

Under this policy, our government assumed the job of collecting customs revenues for the Dominican Republic in the early 1900's, and U. S. Marines occupied that country from 1916 to 1924. We had Marines in Haiti from 1915 to 1934, and officials from the United States controlled many of the Haitian government's activities during part of that period.

U. S. Marines were stationed in Nicaragua nearly all the time from 1912 to 1933. Under a special agreement with Cuba, we sent troops to cope with some uprisings in that nation. We sent a military expedition to Mexico in 1916-17.

## Change in Policy

These U. S. actions caused deep resentment in Latin America. Our southern neighbors did not feel that we were justified in taking such steps.

In the 1920's and 1930's, our nation changed its attitude. Under the "Good Neighbor Policy" (a phrase popularized by Presidents Hoover and Franklin Roosevelt), we launched genuine efforts to win friends in the Western Hemisphere. We gave up the practice of sending U. S. troops to keep order in other American countries.

Today, instead of trying to take it upon ourselves to police and protect the Western Hemisphere, we accept the idea of promoting peace and security through cooperation with the other countries of the Americas.



THE AIRPLANE is a vital means of transport in South America for both short and long trips. Roads and railways often are poor, and thick jungles and high mountains make land travel difficult or impossible in many parts of the continent.



IN SAN JOSÉ, capital of Costa Rica, these young street merchants are selling pastries to passersby. Peddling food along the sidewalks is a common practice in many cities of Latin America.



AN OLD DRAWING portraying Mexican Indians and their Spanish conquerors

of the New World for Spain and other European powers.

Foremost among the Spanish conquerors were Francisco Pizarro, who defeated the Incas of Peru, and Hernando Cortez, who crushed the Aztecs in what is now Mexico. After 1500, nearly all the present-day Latin American lands became colonial territories of Spain. The main exception was Brazil, which developed under Portuguese rule. Uruguay was controlled by Portugal for a while, but was taken by Spain in the 1700's. Haiti and the Dominican Republic were successively under Spain and France.

Not long after our own country obtained its freedom from England, a great independence movement swept through Latin America. Some of the heroes of this drive were Simon Bolívar, who helped liberate the north-



A VILLAGE in Colombia. Note the thatched roofs, the narrow streets, and the plainly dressed people. Millions of people live in villages such as this, or in much poorer ones, in the 20 republics that make up Latin America.



# The Story of the Week

## Easter Holiday

In accordance with its usual practice, the AMERICAN OBSERVER will not publish an issue on the Monday which coincides with the Easter holiday. Consequently, no paper will be published on April 11. The next issue will be dated April 18.

## "Department of Peace"

Harold Stassen will be handling two important government jobs for the next few weeks. He will continue to supervise our overseas aid programs as chief of the Foreign Operations Administration (FOA), and he will also carry out his new duties as special assistant to President Eisenhower on disarmament problems. After June,



EISENHOWER created a new post of Cabinet rank for Harold Stassen

when Stassen will quit FOA, he plans to devote his full time to efforts for ending the global armament race.

In his new post, Stassen sits in on White House Cabinet meetings to get the views of top government officials on disarmament. His office, generally called the "Department of Peace," also sounds out other Americans and our overseas allies on ideas for promoting world peace.

Stassen, who will be 48 years old next week, has spent much of his life in public affairs. Almost as soon as he finished law school, he jumped into politics. When he was only 23 he ran for county attorney in his home state of Minnesota and won. At 31, he was elected governor of Minnesota. Shortly after we entered World War II, he resigned the governorship and became an officer in the Navy.

In 1948 and 1952, Stassen sought the Republican nomination for the Presidency but lost both times. After his defeat in 1948, he became president of the University of Pennsylvania, and later returned to government service.

## Baseball Season

One week from today—on April 11—the big-league baseball season will get under way. The Baltimore Orioles will meet the Washington Senators in the nation's capital, and the Chicago Cubs will play the Cincinnati Redlegs on the latter's field. The remaining teams will swing into action on the following day.

Will the New York Giants and the Cleveland Indians repeat their pennant performances of last year? Many

sportswriters feel they will do so. Others think that the New York Yankees or the Chicago White Sox may beat Cleveland in the American League. In the National League, Brooklyn, Milwaukee, Cincinnati, Philadelphia, and St. Louis are regarded as strong challengers of the Giants.

Of course, some teams not now regarded as powerful may yet surprise the "experts." That possibility always adds interest to the pennant races.

## British Leaders

Will Britain's Foreign Minister Anthony Eden soon replace Prime Minister Churchill as chief of the island nation? Will the growing bitterness between Clement Attlee, who heads the Labor Party, and his rival for party leadership, Aneurin Bevan, kill Labor's chances for a return to power in forthcoming elections?

These and other questions are on the lips of British voters as their country looks forward to elections this year or next. Answers to these questions will affect the futures of the following British leaders:

**Prime Minister Churchill.** Britain's leader in the bitter years of World War II, Churchill has been before the public for over half a century. He first ran for a seat in the British Parliament in the early 1900's, and served as Prime Minister from 1940 to 1945. He was returned to that post in 1951. Tomorrow, April 5, 80-year-old Churchill is scheduled to say whether or not he will now hand over the reins of government to his close friend, Anthony Eden.

**Foreign Minister Eden.** Eden and Churchill have long worked together as a team in directing Britain's affairs and in leading the Conservative Party. Eden, 58, first became Foreign Minister in 1935. Will he be able to lead the Conservatives to victory in forthcoming elections if the popular Churchill doesn't head the ticket?

**Clement Attlee.** Now 73, Attlee has been Labor Party chief since the 1930's, and served as Prime Minister of his country from 1945 to 1951. A short time ago he and his rival for party leadership, Aneurin Bevan, almost came to a final parting of the ways. However, a last-minute compromise prevented a complete break between them. Bitter feelings between the two leaders and their sup-



Churchill



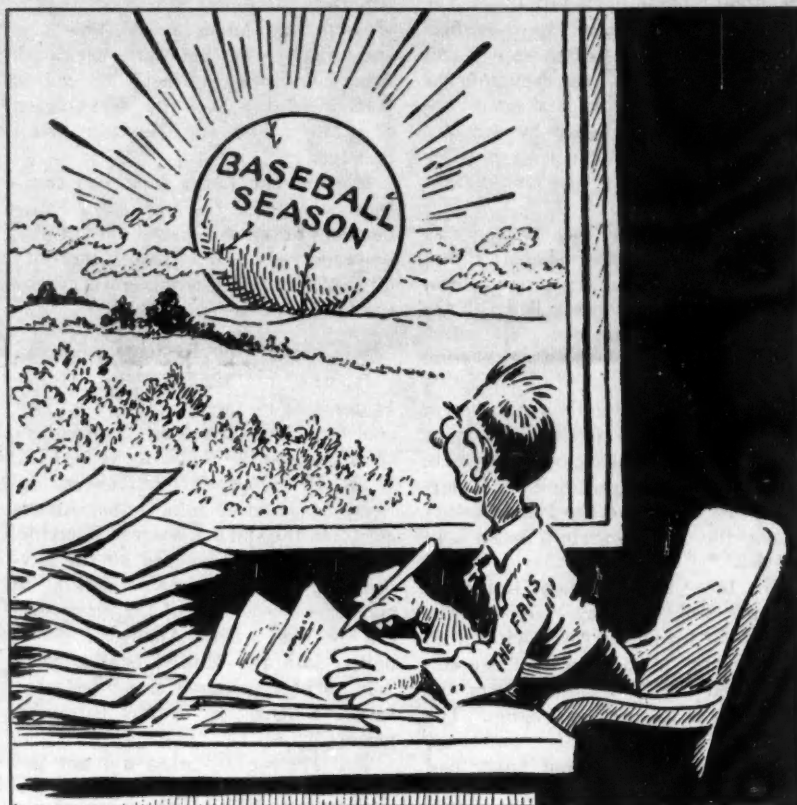
Eden



Attlee



Bevan



SEIBEL IN RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH

IT'S HARD TO CONCENTRATE now that the baseball season is under way, but we have to buckle down and get our work done anyway

porters continue to plague the Labor Party.

**Aneurin Bevan.** A self-educated former Welsh coal miner, Bevan is a fiery opponent of Attlee's policies of supporting close British-United States ties. Bevan wants his country to adopt a "neutral" policy in the struggle with communism. He hopes to gain enough Labor support to take over the party's leadership. The 58-year-old Bevan's aim is to become Prime Minister of Britain sometime in the near future.

## Come to the Fair

Belgium's 8½ million people are planning for the biggest world's fair since the last major global exposition was held near New York City in 1939 and 1940. Though the new fair won't open until 1958, the Belgians are already preparing for the big fete.

Little Belgium plans to build an entire new city near Brussels to house the fair. Some 450 acres of land have been set aside for this purpose. Nations around the globe, including Soviet Russia, have been invited to set up exhibits at the fair.

## Pan American Highway

When the Pan American Highway is finished, many of the countries on this side of the world will be linked by one great network of roads. From Fairbanks, Alaska, motorists will be able to drive to southern Chile—a distance of more than 15,000 miles.

Though the American nations have finished most of the road, motorists should be prepared for any emergency if they plan a trip over the entire length of the Pan American Highway. In some places, particularly in Central America, the road ends in jungles or swamps. Trains or ferries must carry cars across the gaps. In other places the highway is open only in favorable weather, and is not too good at best.

Some of the big gaps in the road are in northern Guatemala, southern Costa Rica, and northern Panama. Another poor section of the highway is in Ecuador, but construction there is going ahead rapidly. Vice President Nixon has urged increased U. S. aid to Central American lands to help them complete their sections of the Pan American Highway. Without additional help from us, he believes, it may take another 25 years before the Central American gaps in the road can be filled in.

The Pan American Highway has been dreamed of for a hundred years. It wasn't until the 1920's, though, that the American nations agreed on building roads which could be connected into one highway system.

## Big Power Parley?

Will President Eisenhower, Britain's Prime Minister Churchill, French Premier Edgar Faure, and Soviet Premier Nikolai Bulganin meet soon to discuss world problems?

A get-together of major nations was suggested by Georgia's Democratic Senator Walter George not long ago. President Eisenhower says he is more than willing to attend such a parley if Russia gives convincing evidence that she seriously wants to talk things over.

We have had bitter experiences with Moscow's representatives in past talks with them. The Soviets have used such parleys as propaganda sounding boards. Instead of trying to reach agreements on such problems as the unification of Germany, a peace treaty for Austria, and a final peace for Korea, the Reds have made lengthy propaganda harangues against us and our allies. President Eisenhower says that we want to avoid such "useless bickering" in any future talks with the Reds.

The White House feels that foreign affairs leaders of the major powers



should first reach some preliminary agreements on big problems before the heads of state meet to discuss these issues. In any case, the President says, there shouldn't be any big-power talks until *after* the rearming of West Germany gets under way.

It is believed that the groundwork for a meeting of major nations may be laid at San Francisco next June. At that time, officials of the various United Nations members are scheduled to meet in honor of the 10th anniversary of the UN San Francisco Conference at which the world organization was set up.

### Constitutional Amendments

All told, 22 amendments or changes have been made in our Constitution thus far. Ten of these, known as the Bill of Rights, were adopted shortly after the Constitution went into effect in 1789.

Amendments to the Constitution, as we know, may be proposed by a two-thirds vote of each house of Congress or by two thirds of the states. They must then be favorably passed upon by three fourths of the states.

Though only a relatively small number of amendments to the Constitution have been approved thus far, many hundreds of proposed changes have been made over the years. This year, for instance, Congress has 64 suggested Constitutional amendments before it for action. They include proposals to:

1. Give all qualified citizens the right to vote after turning 18.
2. Grant state governors the power to appoint members of the U. S. House of Representatives if an atomic attack on us should wipe out large numbers of our lawmakers.
3. Limit the taxes Uncle Sam can levy on any taxpayer to not more than 25 per cent of his earnings.
4. Require justices of the U. S. Supreme Court, who are appointed for life, to retire when they reach 75.

### Air Training

This summer, special workshop programs will be held in many parts of



THE NEW CONVERTIPLANE, the Bell XV3, which was developed for the Army in cooperation with the Air Force. Its unusual propellers operate as helicopter rotors for a vertical take-off or landing. When the plane is in the air, the rotors tilt forward and become propellers for horizontal flight.

the nation to train teachers who are interested in giving air training courses in high schools. The summer training programs will be conducted at many state universities and other schools across the nation.

The training program for teachers is sponsored by the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) which is a volunteer air arm linked with our regular Air Force. Through such projects as these, CAP hopes to encourage more young Americans to take up aviation careers.

CAP has nearly 37,000 volunteer adult members. They look for lost planes, help direct rescue operations when a flood or other disaster strikes, drop supplies to snowbound ranchers, and perform hundreds of other tasks. CAP volunteers get no pay for their services. In fact, they pay an average of six dollars in annual dues plus other expenses.

The civilian air arm also encourages young people to take part in aviation activities. It has a cadet program in which over 49,500 young people, including nearly 10,000 girls, are enrolled. The cadets learn how to handle

aircraft on the ground. The pre-flight training includes field demonstrations and orientation flights.

### Dr. Bush on Loyalty

We need a new loyalty program—one which can effectively weed out enemy agents in our country without wrecking the careers of public servants or trampling on the rights of innocent Americans. That is the view of scientist Dr. Vannevar Bush. Writing in the *New York Times Magazine*, Dr. Bush has this to say:

For some time now, many young people have shied away from entering the scientific profession, particularly if the field involves work on defense projects. They have feared that they may be falsely accused of disloyalty. Individual citizens, many with valuable skills, have been condemned as subversives without adequate opportunities to defend themselves.

Recently, we have made some headway in curbing such excesses in the fight against disloyalty. Now is the time to set up a new loyalty program—one which strikes a proper balance between the security of our country and the rights of individuals. If we are to compete effectively with Russia in science and other fields, we cannot frighten talented Americans away from service to their country.

The first step we should take is to set up a body of prominent Americans to study the whole problem. Its members could then recommend a good program.

### Test Yourself

What are the chief duties of the U. S. Coast Guard? The forerunner of the Coast Guard, set up April 4, 1790, fought pirates and smugglers operating off our coast. Today, the Coast Guard's chief duties include (1) enforcing maritime laws; (2) saving and protecting life and property in coastal waters; (3) aiding our sea and air commerce to overseas points; and (4) helping defend the nation in wartime.

The Coast Guard is supervised by the Treasury Department in peacetime. In time of national emergency, it is under the U. S. Navy.

## Readers Say—

History students in our school, Ventura Senior High School, took a vote on what we considered to be the most effective statements made by famous Americans regarding Brotherhood Week. We chose the words of Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby and Jane Wyman for first and second place honors.

EDDIE JUE,  
Ventura, California

(EDITOR'S NOTE: On March 7, we printed a letter from reader James Kilian in which he wondered whether he should get a higher education or join the service after graduating from high school. A number of readers have expressed their views on this matter. Most of them advise him to go ahead with his schooling. A typical letter concerning his problem is printed below.)

I would advise Jim to go on to college after he graduates. It's true that he might be drafted before he finishes his studies, but if he can keep his grades high he may get a deferment from the service until after he obtains his degree. In any case, the best plan is to get as much education as possible while you have a chance to do so.

THOMAS T. SHISHMAN,  
Norfolk, Virginia

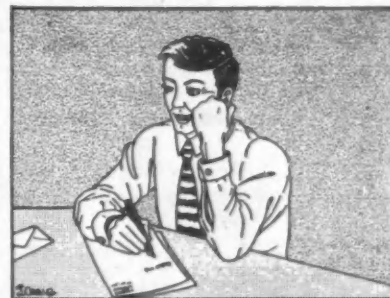
One of Central America's big problems is that the large majority of its people are either very poor or very rich (most of them are poor)—there are few persons there who belong to the middle class. History teaches us that a strong middle class is needed to have a stable and democratic government.

JEROME ROLING,  
Holy Cross, Iowa

I believe that the best plan for training our troops is the two-year draft program. It calls for equal service from all young men and doesn't give some youths a preferred status as does the proposed six-month training plan. Besides, I believe it takes at least two years to give young men adequate military training.

SHIRLEY DAILOR,  
Honeoye Falls, New York

I feel that all young men should serve in the armed forces for two years—those who volunteer for service as well as those who are drafted. It wouldn't be fair to



choose 100,000 youths each year, 17 and 18 years old, for only six months' service while others are required to serve for two or more years.

MARILYN WILBERDING,  
Breda, Iowa

There are many TV shows, movies, and stories which show that crime doesn't pay. However, they also tend to show clever and personable characteristics in many of the criminals. I wonder if such portrayals of criminals help or hinder in the fight against crime.

RICHARD M. REESE, JR.,  
Neffsville, Pennsylvania

(Address letters to this column to Readers Say—, AMERICAN OBSERVER, 1733 K Street, N.W., Washington 6, D. C. If your first letter fails to appear, probably your second or third one will. Keep writing, and we shall publish as many letters as possible.)

## THE LIGHTER SIDE

Sally: I do odd jobs in a millinery shop after school.

Bob: Yes, my girl is wearing one of them.

Politician: How did you like my speech on the agricultural problem?

Farmer: It wasn't bad, but a good day's rain would do a lot more good.



"Short enough . . . ?"

Dressmaker: Ah, madam, I consider that dress the most perfect fit I have ever seen!

Customer: You should see the one my husband will have when he looks at the bill.

A scientist says that many animals laugh. They could hardly help it if they observed people closely.

Employee: I have been here for five years doing three men's work for one man's pay. Now I want a raise.

Employer: I can't give you a raise, but if you'll tell me who the other men are, I'll fire them.

First businessman: Now that I have a car I don't have to walk over to the bank to make my deposits.

Second businessman: You ride?

First businessman: No, I just don't make any.

A wise woman makes her husband think he's head of the house when he's really only chairman of the entertainment committee.



## Finding Our Way

By Walter E. Myer

IN the dark days of 1940 when Adolf Hitler's troops threatened to invade England, the British did all they could to throw obstacles in the path of an invading army. Among other things, they removed guideposts at crossroads. The idea was to confuse the invaders, keep them from knowing just where they were, and hamper enemy troop movements.

Of course, the invasion of England never came to pass. The idea of removing guideposts was, though, a clever one. Imagine how difficult it would be for you to find your way about in an unfamiliar country if it were not for the signs at highway intersections.

Just as we need guideposts and road signs to help us find our way geographically, so each of us needs to know whether he is going in the right direction in his personal development. One way is to write down a number of goals you have in mind. You can then go back to your list of guideposts occasionally to see how much progress you are making.

Many successful people have followed this procedure. Here, for example, is the code of conduct which the noted author, Robert Louis Stevenson, prepared for his own use:

"To work a little harder and with determination and intelligence.

"To remember enough of the past to profit by its mistakes.

"To perform my duties faithfully.

"To cultivate economy and to waste nothing of value.

"To worry never, but to think seriously of the future and not only of today.

"To cooperate earnestly and sincerely with all my business associates.

"To be cheerful and keep smiling.

"To develop courage and self-reliance.

"To ignore courteously any display of jealousy or unfriendliness on the part of others.

"To be kind to dogs and other dumb animals.

"To look after my health, and spend as much time as possible in the great outdoors."

Neither Stevenson nor anyone else would say that this is a complete list of purposes. You would no doubt omit certain of his goals and add others of your own. But some sort of guide to daily conduct and character development might prove very worthwhile.

After you have made your list, test yourself to see what your score is at the beginning. Check again every month or two in order to see how you are progressing. Also, make changes in your list whenever it seems desirable for you to do so.

That man is a success who has lived well, laughed often and loved much; who has gained the respect of intelligent men and the love of children; who has filled his niche and accomplished his task; who leaves the world better than he found it.

—Robert Louis Stevenson.



THIS new prayer room in the nation's Capitol was opened recently for congressmen of all faiths

## YOUR CAREER

### Religious Work

YOUNG men who are looking for careers that offer opportunities for service might well consider the ministry. The Catholic priest, the Jewish rabbi, and the Protestant clergyman have such opportunities. Their primary duty is to teach the doctrines of their particular religions, but they also have the very important task of aiding their parishioners in other ways when the need arises.

The minister, the priest, or the rabbi must be a very devout and spiritual person. He must have a strong desire to help people grow in religious faith and understanding. In addition, he should be intelligent and should have tact, patience, and sympathy.

The educational requirements for entering the ministry vary among the different religious groups. To serve in most Protestant denominations, a young man must usually have a college degree and he must spend three or four years studying in a theological seminary.

Young men who want to go into the Catholic priesthood usually attend seminaries where they receive their high school training and two years of college. Then six years are spent in a major seminary.

Rabbis attend one of the recognized schools in the United States that gives training in the Jewish faith. Their seminary studies take 4 to 5 years to complete.

In any case, a young man who plans to go into religious work should talk

with his rabbi, his priest, or his minister to see just what duties are involved and what training is required.

Most clergymen earn between \$2,500 and \$5,000 a year. In large cities, a relatively few may have incomes as high as \$10,000, or more. Usually a pastor is provided with a home in which to live.

Catholic priests receive only simple living expenses. All men in religious orders (Dominican, Franciscan, and the others) are bound by a severe rule of poverty.

A person interested primarily in income should never consider this field. The satisfaction that comes from helping others, a place of respect in the community, deep friendships, and a kind of spiritual fulfillment that may be missing in other professions are among the advantages and chief remunerations of the ministry.

The prospective clergyman faces a long period of preparation and duties which may be taxing. Each week sermons must be prepared, and the priest, the rabbi, or the minister must take part in directing the activities of his church. He must be ready at all hours to help parishioners who need assistance.

Foreign-mission work is a field that also attracts young people interested in religious work. The qualifications for being a missionary are much the same as those for the ministry. The missionary, in addition, must learn a foreign language.

Opportunities for women in religious work are becoming available in more and more Protestant churches. In fact, a major school of religious training, Harvard Divinity School, will open its doors to women students this fall.

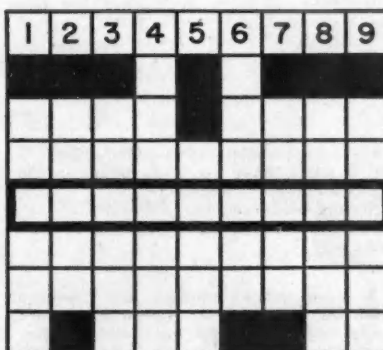
Women in the Roman Catholic Church, by becoming nuns, can engage in teaching, nursing, missionary work, and other activities. In the Protestant churches they can go into foreign missions or serve as directors of education. In the Jewish faith they find their niches in the field of religious education.

Further information about opportunities for careers in church work can be obtained from the clergy of your faith. You can also get lists of available vocational pamphlets from the National Catholic Welfare Conference, 1312 Massachusetts Avenue, N. W., Washington 5, D. C.; B'nai B'rith Vocational Service Bureau, 1761 R Street, N. W., Washington 9, D. C.; and the Joint Department of Christian Vocation, National Council of Churches, 297 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

## PUZZLE ON CURRENT AFFAIRS

Fill in numbered vertical rows according to descriptions given below. When all are correctly finished, heavy rectangle will spell the name of a country.

1. Latin America's largest nation.
2. Leader of Argentina's government.
3. Capital of Colombia.
4. Latin America's great wealth promises future industrial growth.
5. Famous Latin American mountain range.
6. The explorer who won Mexico for Spain.
7. Long, narrow South American nation on the Pacific Ocean.
8. A. U. S. President whose doctrine warned Europe that we would protect Latin American nations.
9. The River in South America is one of the world's largest.



### Last Week

HORIZONTAL: machinery. VERTICAL: 1. Kitimat; 2. radar; 3. nickel; 4. wheat; 5. platinum; 6. iron ore; 7. paper; 8. Laurent; 9. Tokyo.

## News Quiz

### Latin America

1. Why is most of the region south of the United States called "Latin" America?
2. Describe the influence of the Andes Mountains upon life in the southern continent.
3. Name two great Latin American rivers and tell what regions they drain.
4. Where are some of Latin America's most fertile agricultural areas?
5. Why do the southern nations produce a relatively small portion of the world's lumber, despite their extensive forests?
6. List some of the area's outstanding minerals.
7. What four main groups of people live in Latin America?
8. In general, how are the Latin American people divided as to economic groups?
9. Describe some of the ways in which living standards are rising in Latin America.
10. Why is farm output disappointing in this region as a whole?
11. What are the main obstacles to industrial growth?
12. Who are Adolfo Ruiz Cortines, Joao Café Filho, and Juan Peron?
13. List some reasons why it has been difficult for democracy to take root in Latin America.
14. Mention some ways in which the United States and the Latin American countries are cooperating on defense matters.
15. How are we helping the southern republics to improve their economic conditions?
16. What is the purpose of the Organization of American States?

### Discussion

1. In your opinion, what is Latin America's most serious problem? Explain.
2. Do you or do you not think that the United States gives too little attention to Latin America as compared to Europe and Asia? Give reasons.
3. Tell why you would or would not like to visit the lands south of the Rio Grande? Do you feel that the average American, including yourself, knows as much as he should about this region?

### Miscellaneous

1. What new duties does Harold Stassen have?
2. Identify the following British leaders: Winston Churchill; Anthony Eden; Clement Attlee; and Aneurin Bevan.
3. How far will one be able to travel on the Pan American Highway when it is completed?
4. Under what conditions does President Eisenhower say he will agree to big-power talks with Russia?
5. What is the Civil Air Patrol and what are some of its activities?
6. Who is Dr. Vannevar Bush, and what criticisms and recommendations does he make concerning the government's program for checking the loyalty of public servants?
7. What are four proposed Constitutional amendments which have been submitted to the present session of Congress for its consideration?

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